

Cleveland Press
March 3d, 1964.*she is a
syndicate
writer.*

Dallas Chief Admits Error

DALLAS—Shortly after 11 a. m. on the morning of Nov. 24, a Texas-big man swung out of his Texas-big office on the third floor of the municipal building and headed for an elevator that would take him to the basement of the building.

Before he could get to the elevator bank, Police Chief Jesse Curry was intercepted by his secretary who said that the mayor of Dallas was on the phone and wished to speak with him.

Curry was still on the phone, speaking with the mayor, when a dazed aside rushed in around 11:25 a. m. to say that the most famous prisoner in America, Lee H. Oswald, had just been shot in the basement of the building, which also serves as the city jail.

His reaction to the astounding news?

"Disbelief," said Chief Curry when I talked with him in his office. "Just plain disbelief, after all the precautions that had been taken to transfer him from jail to the county prison. I thought every precaution had been taken . . .

"I DON'T THINK anyone in this century had been subject to such pressure or demand for 'instant news.'"

Curry continued in his low-key manner: "It had reached the point where the news media were trying to satisfy the public, which felt it had the right to witness or participate in events as they occurred."

"As a result of Oswald's killing, I am



sure a different standard of police policy in handing news media has been set up all over the world, not just here."

On that morning of Nov. 24 Jack Ruby, operator of a cheap Dallas strip-tease joint, had somehow walked into the heavily guarded basement.

"How did such a man get into that basement," I asked, repeating the question that has bothered millions.

"I couldn't reveal that," Curry replied in his soft, low-pitched voice. "That will have to be revealed by the Warren Commission investigating the assassination. We have turned over to them every scrap of evidence we have collected."

THE SHOTS THAT KILLED Oswald triggered, among other things, what might be called "the ordeal of Jesse Curry." Within hours this man who had a national—even an international—reputation as an outstanding, competent police officer was being attacked and harshly blamed for Oswald's death.

Because he had yielded to the pressure of news media to transfer the prisoner in broad daylight, for the benefit of TV and news cameras, he was branded, first and foremost, as a publicity hog.

He was such a Klieg-light character I expected to meet when I went to his office. As an experienced reporter, I can spot a publicity hog at 5000 paces. But the police officer I met has none of the attributes of such headline-happy kooks.

"I did what I thought was best at the time," he said quietly, and with a trace of bitterness. "I would do it differently now. Sure, hindsight is wonderful."

Euclid, Ohio.
March 4th 1964.

Dear Chief Clegg,

I'm enclosing a clipping that an
newspaper woman, who is covering the
Ruby case in your city.

In reading it in our local paper, as
she has, it truly gives us a closer
feeling toward your officials in Dallas.

Chief Clegg, Dallas, has lost nothing
in the way of prestige.

And to say, in conversations most
everywhere one hears the case mentioned,

(which is on the Sheppard Murder case,
was in our own city (in 1954) the
same words of praise are heard,
for your Prosecuting attorney and your
very fine judge.

Believe me when I tell you, all
hearts and prayers are with you all

in this ordeal.

"Don't lose hold of the two main copies of
life, "Hope and Faith."

God will guide you each this I am
sure of.

Yours very Respectfully,
Doris M. Donahue,

#22700 Tracy Ave.
Euclid 44123, Ohio.

Policia Dept.
Dallas, Texas
Dear "Chief":

It is way late for me
to put on paper what
has been on my heart
since that fateful
day last November.
I was going to "let George
do it", but I haven't
heard that there are
any Georges around
these days. Are there?!

Anyway, what I am trying
to say is that I feel you and
the police forces, as well as
the Federal Officers, did a
magnificent job under ex-
tremely difficult & shocking
circumstances. Instead of
blaming you in any way,
I think ~~public opinion~~ should
~~be~~ highly commended ^{all} for
averting panic & possible
further disaster. Handling
large crowds is a big job at
best, but when a U.S. President
is assassinated on the streets
of your ~~town~~ city in daylight,
I find the amazing fact of the
whole tragedy to be the spontaneous
& efficient way ~~in~~ in which the
local & Federal Officials reacted.
To me, this is comparable to the
Los Angeles authorities averted a

potentially tremendous disaster in
the Goldwin Hills Dam Break. Much
caution, wisdom & courage were
exercised in alerting & evacuating
the residents. The damage was
high, loss of life was kept to
a minimum.

I do hope this real heroism
will not go unrewarded. As a
private citizen, may I say
please don't accept any blame or
criticism from anyone, as I fear
it would undermine our entire
police system. Sincerely, June C. Johnson
^{715 Madeline}
Water, Cal.

March 25, 1964

Ms. June C. Johnson
765 Kadota
Atwater, California

Dear Ms. Johnson:

I am very happy to say there have been a few "georges" who have extended their sympathy to me and the department during the past several trying months.

It was very generous of you to lend your encouragement. These have been hectic and heartbreaking days for us in the police department. Few have the wisdom and compassion to understand how we feel about the tragic events in November.

I am so pleased to add your name to those who have supported the Dallas Police Department and all law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

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March 26, 1964

Mrs. Dorris M. Donahue
22700 Tracy Avenue
Euclid, Ohio 44123

Dear Mrs. Donahue:

I hope you will forgive me for not writing to you earlier to thank you again for your support. I think Mrs. Robb treated me very kindly in her article. She is a charming person and writes her news items on a factual basis. Her article had widespread distribution apparently as I have received copies from a number of other persons. I wish all correspondents felt as she does. Many have not been nearly so kind or fair.

It is the fine people, like you, who have enabled me to "hold onto the two main ropes of life - Hope and Faith."

Cordially,

J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

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CITY OF GRANTS PASSCITY HALL • FOURTH AND H STREETS
GRANTS PASS, OREGON

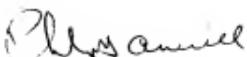
March 20, 1964

Chief Jesse E. Curry
Police Department
Dallas, Texas

Dear Chief Curry:

I have been asked by my Mayor, Robert C. Martin
to forward the enclosed check to your office for appropriate
distribution.

Very truly yours,



PHILIP G. AVERILL
Chief of Police

Enclosure (check)

cc: Mayor Martin

POA/dmp

mailed to:
Mrs Leedharday Oswald
629 Belt Line Rd.
Richardson, Texas
CR. \$10.00